CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1555
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REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE
UNDER ITEM 1 OF THE AGENDA ENTITLED "CESSATION OF THE
NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT"

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 802nd plenary meeting, on 11 August 1998, the Conference on Disarmament decided "to establish, under item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", an ad hoc committee which shall negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The Ad Hoc Committee shall present a report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 1998 session." (CD/1547)

In connection with the above decision, the President of the Conference made the following statement: "In connection with the decision we have just taken, I should like, in my capacity as President of the Conference, to state that the adoption of this decision is without prejudice to any further decisions on the establishment of further subsidiary bodies under agenda item 1 which may result from the provisions of paragraph 1 of decision CD/1501, and that the presidency will continue to pursue intensive consultations and to seek the views of the members of the Conference on appropriate methods and approaches for dealing with agenda item 1, entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", taking into consideration all proposals and views in this respect." (CD/1548)

II. ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND DOCUMENTS

2. At its 804th plenary meeting, on 20 August 1998, the Conference on Disarmament appointed Ambassador Mark Moher of Canada as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for the current session. Mr. Jerzy Zaleski, Political Affairs Officer, United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, served as Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee.

3. The Ad Hoc Committee held 2 meetings from 27 August to 1 September 1998. In addition, the Chairman conducted a number of informal consultations with delegations.

4. The following documents were submitted during the annual session of the Conference on Disarmament and were considered relevant to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee:

- CD/1485, dated 21 January 1998, submitted by the delegation of Canada, entitled "Working paper with regard to an ad hoc committee on a fissile material cut-off treaty".

- CD/1490, dated 28 January 1998, submitted by the delegation of the United States of America, entitled "Statement from the President of the United States upon the Occasion of the Opening Plenary of the 1998 Session of the Conference on Disarmament".

- CD/1492, dated 3 February 1998, submitted by the delegation of Austria, entitled "Draft decision on the reestablishment of an ad hoc committee to negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices".

- CD/1516, dated 28 May 1998, submitted by the delegation of Japan, entitled "Seminar Conference on Technical Issues for a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, 11 and 12 May 1998, Geneva, Chairman's Summary".

- CD/1542, dated 11 June 1998, entitled "Letter dated 10 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the English and Spanish texts of the Joint Declaration relating to Nuclear Disarmament of 9 June 1998 by the Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Slovenia, South Africa and Sweden".

- CD/1545, dated 31 July 1998, submitted by the delegation of Algeria, entitled "Proposal under item 1 of the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament 'Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament'".

- CD/1547, dated 11 August 1998, entitled "Decision on the establishment of an ad hoc committee under item 1 of the agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament".

- CD/1548, dated 11 August 1998, entitled "Statement made by the President following the adoption of decision CD/1547 on the establishment of an ad hoc committee under item 1 of the agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament".

- CD/1549, dated 12 August 1998, entitled "Statement by the Group of 21".

- CD/1550, dated 12 August 1998, entitled "Letter dated 12 August 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Austria addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the text of a press statement by the Austrian Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schussel in his capacity as President of the Council of the European Union on the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to establish an ad

hoc committee to negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material used in nuclear weapons issued in Vienna on 11 August 1998".

- CD/1551, dated 18 August 1998, entitled "Letter dated 14 August 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of the statement of the Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Domingo L. Siazon, on the establishment of an ad hoc committee to negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material".

III SUBSTANTIVE WORK DURING THE 1998 SESSION

5. During the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee, delegations had a general exchange of views, as a first step in the substantive negotiations.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6. It was agreed to recommend to the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee at the beginning of the 1999 session.